


Subject:**Resent-From:** Millennium.Comments@noaa.gov**Date:** Mon, 06 Jan 2003 14:23:54 -0500**From:** "L Ahlert" <AhlertL@co.rockland.ny.us>**To:** <millennium.comments@noaa.gov>

Please see attached.

Thank you.

 ELLEN JAFFEE PIPELINE MAIN LTR.doc	Name: ELLEN JAFFEE PIPELINE MAIN LTR.doc Type: WINWORD File (application/msword) Encoding: base64 Download Status: Not downloaded with message
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January 6, 2003

Mr. Karl Gleaves
Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Svcs.
National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration
United States Department of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Gleaves:

As members of the Rockland County Legislature, we hereby enter into record our strong opposition to the Millennium Pipeline route alternatives relating to Rockland County, as being proposed by the New York Department of State (DOS).

The Rockland County portion of the Millennium Pipeline, to be utilized by Columbia Gas, was constructed in 2001 by Mirant Energy, and is currently in service supplying gas to the Bowline Energy Facility. The pipeline was placed along existing utility corridors to minimize the impact to residents.

As you are aware, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission certified this proposal route after four years of intensive environmental study. The United States Department of Environmental Protection Agency, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, have determined that the certificated crossing of the Hudson River at Haverstraw Bay is acceptable.

In our opinion, the route alternatives, as recommended by the Department of State, will have significant and adverse effects on the natural and human environment. The following impacts will occur:

Option #1 – Palisades – Dobbs Ferry Route

This NY DOS preferred option would include locating the pipeline in the wooded buffer parallel to the Palisades Interstate Parkway (PIP), originating in the Village of Pomona, for approximately 10 miles, crossing Tallman State Park and entering the Piermont Marsh.

Impact to the Palisades Interstate Parkway:

- ✓ The Palisades Interstate Parkway is designated a National Historic Landmark and a scenic byway by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The environmental impact to the PIP would be devastating and change, forever, the scenic beauty of this parkway.
- ✓ The removal of the wooded buffer along the 10-mile portion of the PIP will directly effect the quality of life for several hundred residents, whose properties border the Parkway. The wooded buffer serves as an essential noise, visual, and air pollution abatement barrier to the heavily traveled road.
- ✓ Construction activities adjacent to the PIP will directly impact thousands of motorists who commute on this heavily populated roadway.
- ✓ Heavy equipment necessary for construction of the Pipeline would significantly damage the newly constructed roadway and drainage systems.

Impact to Tallman Mountain State Park and Piermont Marsh:

- ✓ Tallman Mountain State Park will be significantly impacted due to the removal of thousands of mature trees, construction on steep slopes, and crossing of small streams.
- ✓ A number of plants in the Park and Marsh are listed as rare, endangered, or of special concern.
- ✓ The Park is listed on the State Register of Historic Places.
- ✓ The Piermont Marsh has been designated a Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat under the New York State Coastal Management Program. The same designation as Haverstraw Bay.
- ✓ In 1985 the Village of Piermont designated the Marsh as a Critical Environmental Area, pursuant to NYS Environmental Conservation Law (ECL Article 8).
- ✓ The Park and Marsh are listed in the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- ✓ The Park and Marsh are Included in the Tappan Zee Scenic District (ECL Article 49).

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- ✓ A number of plant and animal species found in the marsh are Federally classified as rare, endangered, or of special concern.
- ✓ The Park and Marsh are State-owned lands within the Piermont Marsh Reserve, and are under the jurisdiction of three state agencies.
- ✓ The "lay-barge" technique proposed for Haverstraw Bay may not be usable at this location. This could cause significant environmental disruption to Piermont Marsh and the Hudson River.
- ✓ Significant blasting and excavating would occur in the State Park.

Other Options – The Palisades/CSX Railroad/Route 117 Alternative:

These pipeline options would be constructed along the PIP or the CSX railroad corridor crossing the Hudson River at Hook Mountain State Park.

- ✓ The impact to the PIP and CSX would be the same as listed in alternative "Option 1."
- ✓ The pipeline would be placed along Route 303, and residents bordering these highways effecting hundreds of residents and businesses.
- ✓ Significant safety issues would arise from the placement of the pipeline along this route.
- ✓ The pipeline would have to be constructed along steep slopes and mountainous terrain.
- ✓ Hook Mountain State Park and Rockland Lake State Park, both listed as National Historic Landmarks, would be adversely effected by construction of the pipeline.
- ✓ The rock outcroppings along the Hook Mountain Bike Trail would be removed.
- ✓ Significant blasting and excavating would occur in these two State Parks.

In conclusion, we believe that the alternative routes suggested by the NYS Department of State will have a permanent negative impact on Rockland County, and the quality of life of Rockland County residents.

Please be aware, for the reasons noted above, that the County Legislature will join the County Executive in taking whatever measures necessary to oppose these alternatives.

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Sincerely,



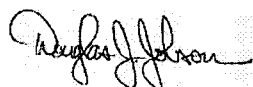
ELLEN C. JAFFEE
Legislator – District 12

Sincerely,



ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER
Legislator – District 4

Sincerely,



DOUGLAS J. JOBSON
Legislator - District 1

Sincerely,



SALVATORE CORALLO
Legislator – District 2

Sincerely,



ROMAN RODRIGUEZ
Legislator – District 3

Sincerely,



KENNETH P. ZEBROWSKI
Legislator – District 5

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Sincerely,



ROBERT M. BERLINER
Legislator – District 6

Sincerely,

GEROLD M. BIERKER
Legislator – District 9

Sincerely,




THEODORE R. DUSANENKO
Legislator – District 11

Sincerely,



WILLIAM L. DARDEN
Legislator – District 8

Sincerely,



HARRIET D. CORNELL
Legislator – District 10

Sincerely,

VJ PRADHAN
Legislator – District 14

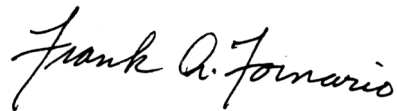
Mr. Karl Gleaves
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Sincerely yours,



JOHN A. MURPHY
Legislator – District 16

Sincerely yours,



FRANK A. FORNARIO
Legislator – District 17

CC: Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef, County Executive
Town of Orangetown, Town of Clarkstown, Town of Ramapo:
Supervisors
Town Council Members
Village Mayors and Trustees
Environmental Management Council
R. Allan Beers
Diane Gruskin
Suffern Civic Association
Ms. Sarah Mondale, Suffern Civic Association
28 Hillside Ave., Suffern, NY 10901

ECJ/la